

METHOD TO PROVIDE CROSS-TALK CANCELLATION

The present invention relates to a method to provide cross-talk cancellation as described in the preamble of claim 1 and to a module as described in the preamble of claim 7 to execute such a method.

Such a method and module are already known in the art. Indeed, telecommunication systems such as access systems might comprise a Multiple Input Multiple Output MIMO system. Such a system comprises a plurality of downstream transceivers, each being coupled, respectively, to a plurality of upstream transceivers. It has to be explained here that each downstream transceiver is enabled to receive a signal in the downstream direction from a respective upstream transceiver and also to transmit on its turn a signal in the upstream direction to this upstream transceiver.

However such a transceiver, either a downstream transceiver or an upstream transceiver, that receives a signal from its associated transceiver will also receive cross-talk interference from the other transceivers which are interchanging signals as well.

Therefore, instead of demodulating the signals on each line e.g. each twisted pair separately, a Multiple Input Multiple Output system relies on a joint processing of all signals which leads to increased performance. In order to realize this joint processing, it has to be understood that each plurality of transceivers has to be coupled among each other.

Multiple access systems such as e.g. Very high bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line systems VDSL are operating in high frequency ranges whereby considerable cross-talk is introduced into the received signals. When an operator has access to the multiple transceivers at one side e.g. at the central office side, cross-talk cancellation or cross-talk pre-compensation can be applied via joint processing in order to reduce cross-talk.

It has to be explained that full cross-talk cancellation cancels all interfering signals, i.e. the signals transmitted by all other transceivers. According to prior art methods, this is done for every tone of the signals coming from every transceiver at the other side. Full cross-talk
5 cancellation results in a high computational complexity and large memory requirements. Therefore according to a known prior art method only a subset of the interfering signals are cancelled. This is called partial cross-talk cancellation whereby cross-talk cancellation is enabled at lower complexity. Indeed, by only canceling dominant interferers, most
10 of the benefits of cross-talk cancellation are gained whilst significantly reducing the computational complexity and large memory requirements.

Such a subset of dominant interferers is usually determined under the assumption that the most dominant interferers are physically located near each other in the same binder. Indeed, twisted pairs that are
15 located near each other in a same binder will easily introduce cross-talk interference to each other. Indeed, this introduces considerably more cross-talk than the twisted pairs which are located at the opposite side in this binder.

However, cross-talk elimination for all tones of such a selected
20 subset of interferers still requires too many computing resources.

The object of the present invention is to provide a method and module to provide partial cross-talk cancellation such as the above known schemes but which improve the computational complexity during operational phase of the system.

25 According to the invention, this object is achieved with the method to provide cross-talk cancellation in a multiple input multiple output system according to claim 1 and with the module to provide cross-talk cancellation in a multiple input multiple output system according to claim 7 that executes such a method.

30 Indeed, by pre-selecting during a first phase e.g. during initialization phase of the access environment, for every user the most

dominant interfering tones and users, a general scheme is provided for allocation of computing resources during operation time across the different users, tones and interfering users.

5 In this way, the method according to the present invention comprises a first step being executed by the determining means of the module according to the present invention, of determining during a first phase and according to a heuristic model, for a first signal that will be transmitted to a first output of a plurality of outputs of the multiple input multiple output system, at least one dominant interfering tone of at least
10 one second signal that will be transmitted to a second output of the plurality of outputs. This dominant interfering tone is a tone of the second signal that would generate cross-talk upon the first signal when this first signal would be transmitted to the first output. Hereafter, during a second phase of the method a step of cross-talk cancellation is
15 executed by the executing means for the first signal for at least one determined dominant interfering tone of the second signal.

This is described in the method of claim 1 and the module of claim 7.

A preferred implementation is described in claim 2. Herein, the
20 method to provide cross-talk cancellation according to the present invention further comprises executing the step of determining during a first phase and according to a heuristic model at least one dominant interfering tone. This at least one dominant interfering tone is determined for each first signal. Furthermore, this at least one dominant
25 interfering tone is determined out of all tones of all other second signals which are different of the first signal.

Hereby, the step of executing the cross-talk cancellation is done during the second phase for each first signal and for each determined dominant interfering tone coming out of the tones of one or
30 another second signal.

In this way the method according to the invention describes a method to select during a first phase e.g. initialization time of the access environment the dominant interfering tones out of all tones of all second signals upon each first signal. Hence the method specifies the interfering
5 signals with its tones. The corresponding tones of the corresponding signals are then to be cancelled on the given first signals during operational time i.e. the second phase. This means a partial cross-talk cancellation is executed for only well considered dominant interfering tones whereby a total amount of computing power, which is spent during
10 data transmission i.e. the second phase, is treated as a resource that is allocated across all user-signals and tones.

It has to be explained that the dominant interfering tones are selected out of all tones on all second signals. This means that for a second signal there can be selected zero, one or more dominant
15 interfering tones during this step of determining dominant interfering tones.

This means also that during the step of executing the partial cross-talk cancellation for a second signal either zero tones are cancelled since no dominant interfering tone was selected or either one or more
20 tones are cancelled since one or more dominant interfering tones were determined during the first phase.

A preferred implementation of the heuristic model is described in claim 3. Herein the method to provide cross-talk cancellation according to the present invention further comprises that the step of
25 determining according to this heuristic model the different dominant interfering tones comprises the steps of:

- determining a utility value for each predetermined tone of the second signal. This utility value reflects a utility of canceling the predetermined tone and is defined in function of an increase in
30 transmission rate it would cause to the first signal in the event when all

other interfering signals on that predetermined tone would have been cancelled; and

– in the event when this utility value exceeds a predefined utility threshold, the predetermined tone is defined as a dominant interfering tone. Hereafter the step of cross-talk cancellation for the first
5 signal during the second phase for each defined dominant interfering tone of one or another second signal can be executed according to a computing resource efficient way.

In this way, the usefulness or utility of canceling a given
10 interfering signal on a given tone is defined as the increase in rate it would cause to the signal if all other interfering second signals on that tone had already been cancelled. A 'utility measure' as a function of signal, interfering signal and tone is provided. The results for a first signal of a first user are sorted in descending order whereby upon
15 definition of a threshold a set of dominant interfering tones for a first user are defined. This set of dominant interfering tones comprises tones of different second signals but not necessarily a tone for each second signal.

Two possible implementations are provided to implement the
20 execution of the step of cross-talk cancellation during the second phase. A first way is described in claim 4. Herein the cancellation step during the second phase is only executed after reception of the first signal at the first output in order to compensate the cross-talk that was imposed on the first signal during the transmission of the first signal to this first
25 output.

A second possible implementation is described in claim 5. Herein the step of cross-talk cancellation during the second phase is in fact executed before transmission of the first signal in order to pre-compensate the cross-talk that will be imposed on this first signal during
30 the coming transmission of the first signal to the first output. This step of cross-talk cancellation is in fact a step of cross-talk pre-compensation

since it is executed during the second phase i.e. operational time but before the cross-talk takes place.

A further remark is that in a preferred embodiment the first phase is in fact a time period during initialization time of the multiple input multiple output system. In this way, the preprocessing of determining the most dominant interfering signals and tones is already executed before the system becomes operational. Hereby, computational resources are saved during operational time periods whereby during the operational time periods only the cancellation, alias the real cancellation or the pre-compensation, has to be executed for these dominant interfering signals and tones. So, during operational phase, only partial cross-talk cancellation is executed for only dominant interfering signals and tones which are precisely determined during initialization phase of the system by means of a heuristic model.

It has to be remarked here that a determination of the most dominant interfering signals and tones might be either executed for the first time or might be repeated during operational phase as well. Such an implementation would however turn out to use computational resources at the moment when they should be used scarcely.

A further remark is that the method according to the present invention can be used as well in the downstream direction of signal transmission as in the upstream direction of signal transmission. Only care has to be taken that the module for providing cross-talk cancellation in a multiple input multiple output system comprises means that ensures access to the different received or transmitted signals in order to execute the joint processing of the received or transmitted signals i.e. in order to execute the cross-talk cancellation or the cross-talk pre-compensation.

Such a possible implementation is described in claim 8. Herein the multiple input multiple output system comprises a central office that comprises a module according to the present invention. When a multiple input multiple output system comprises a central office, the central office

has access to all received signals. In this way, the central office is enabled to execute a real cross-talk cancellation on a received first signal from e.g. a customer equipment of the dominant interfering tones being determined according to the heuristic model during the first phase.

5 Furthermore, this central office is also enabled to execute a cross-talk cancellation being a cross-talk pre-compensation on first signal to be transmitted to e.g. a customer equipment of the dominant interfering tones being determined according to the heuristic model during the first phase.

10 Finally it is described in claim 9 that the module is comprised in the multiple input multiple output system which is comprised in a Digital Subscriber Line system.

It is to be noticed that the term 'comprising', used in the claims, should not be interpreted as being limitative to the means listed
15 thereafter. Thus, the scope of the expression 'a device comprising means A and B' should not be limited to devices consisting only of components A and B. It means that with respect to the present invention, the only relevant components of the device are A and B.

Similarly, it is to be noticed that the term 'coupled', also used in
20 the claims, should not be interpreted as being limitative to direct connections only. Thus, the scope of the expression 'a device A coupled to a device B' should not be limited to devices or systems wherein an output of device A is directly connected to an input of device B. It means that there exists a path between an output of A and an input of B which
25 may be a path including other devices or means.

The above and other objects and features of the invention will become more apparent and the invention itself will be best understood by referring to the following description of an embodiment taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing wherein figure 1 represents
30 a multiple input multiple output system in an access system.

The working of the device according to the present invention in accordance with its telecommunication environment that is shown in figure 1 will be explained by means of a functional description of the different blocks shown therein. Based on this description, the practical
5 implementation of the blocks will be obvious to a person skilled in the art and will therefor not be described in details.

Referring to figure 1, an access system is shown. The access system comprises a Multiple Input Multiple Output system which on its turn is comprised in the access system. The access system comprises a
10 number n of customer premises equipment CP1, CP2, ..., CPm, ... CPn at the downstream side and a central office at the upstream side. Each customer premises equipment comprises a transmitter/receiver (not shown) and is respectively coupled via a link to a transmitter/receiver in the central office CO.

15 In this way, each input/output of a customer equipment with its link and its associated input/output of the transmitter/receiver in the central office are constituting together the multiple input multiple output system.

In the event of considering a downstream signals from the
20 central office to the customer equipments the multiple input multiple output system comprises at the central office inputs and at the customer premises equipment outputs.

In the event of considering upstream signals from the customer premises equipment to the central office the multiple input
25 multiple output system comprises at the central office outputs and at the customer premises equipments inputs.

In order not to overload the figure unnecessarily, a situation of upstream signals is considered whereby only the outputs OUT1, OUT2, ..., OUTm, ..., OUTn at the central office side are shown.

30 It has to be understood that the principle idea of the present invention is not limited to situations of upstream signals. Indeed, small

modifications to the description below can be provided in order to describe a situation with downstream signals.

The central office CO comprises besides the outputs OUT1, OUT2, ..., OUTm, ..., OUTn at the different transmitter/receivers a
5 module MOD to provide cross-talk cancellation according to the present invention. The module MOD comprises a determiner DET and an executor EXE. The determiner DET is coupled to the executor EXE that is coupled on its turn to each transmitter/receiver of the central office CO.

The determiner DET according to the present invention is
10 included to determine during a first phase dominant interfering tones. The first phase is according to this preferred embodiment executed during initialization phase of the access system. The dominant interfering tones are determined for each signal, called first signal e.g. S_i that will be transmitted to an output, called first output e.g. OUT_i of the
15 plurality of outputs OUT1, OUT2, ..., OUTn. A dominant interfering tone e.g. D is a tone of a signal, called second signal e.g. S_j that would be transmitted to an output, called second output OUT_j of the plurality of outputs OUT1, OUT2, ..., OUTn whereby the dominant interfering tone D is a tone of the second signal S_j that would generate cross-talk on the
20 first signal S_i when it is transmitted to this first output OUT_i . The determination of the dominant interfering tone which is in fact a selection out of the different tones of the second signal S_j is determined according to a heuristic model.

The working of the heuristic model is explained in the
25 following paragraph. Firstly a utility value is determined for each examined tone of the second signal S_j . This utility value reflects in fact a utility of canceling the second signal on this examined tone and is defined in function of an increase in transmission rate that canceling the second signal on this tone would cause to the first signal S_i in the event
30 when all other interfering signals on that tone would have been cancelled. In the event when the utility value for this examined tone exceeds a utility

threshold, the examined tone is indeed determined and selected as a dominant interfering tone D for the second signal.

This will now be explained in more detail. The division of available computing resources between users can also be adjusted to give more priority to users who suffer the most from cross-talk. When using a linear Minimum Mean Squared Error MMSE cross-talk canceller, canceling one interferer from a single user's signal, at one tone corresponds to a complex multiplication. In the event of partial cross-talk cancellation, the cross-talk canceling filter $W(k)$ is a sparse matrix. The number of non-zero elements in $W(k)$ corresponds to the number of multiplications per received DMT-block for tone k .

When the total number of available multiplications (per received DMT-block) is set to cKn where K is the number of tones, n the number of users in a common binder and c a freely chosen parameter. This definition is used to limit the complexity of cross-talk cancellation to c times that of a standard single-user frequency domain equalizer FDE.

To allow the division of computing resources between users to be tuned, a parameter μ_i is defined which determines the proportion of total multiplications allocated to user i .

The number of multiplications for user i is:

$$\text{mults}_i = \mu_i cKn \quad \sum_i \mu_i = 1$$

The multiplications are in this way divided between users. Given that there is a fixed number of multiplications available for a certain user, these multiplications must be allocated across tones and interferers.

The optimal solution to the computing resource allocation problem is highly complex and this arises from the high dimensional, combinational nature of the problem. In considering the allocation of resources across tones and interferers a heuristic model is hereby provided.

The usefulness or utility of cancelling a given interferer on a given tone, is defined as the increase in rate it would cause to the user, if all other interferers had already been cancelled. A utility measure as a function of a user is hereby defined:

5

$$\begin{aligned}\partial R_{k,j}^i &= \log\left(1 + \frac{\text{signal}_i(k)}{\text{noise}_i(k)}\right) - \log\left(1 + \frac{\text{signal}_i(k)}{\text{Interference}_{i,j}(k) + \text{noise}_i(k)}\right) \\ &= \log\left(\frac{(\text{signal}_i(k) + \text{noise}_i(k))(\text{Interference}_{i,j}(k) + \text{noise}_i(k))}{\text{noise}_i(k)(\text{signal}_i(k) + \text{Interference}_{i,j}(k) + \text{noise}_i(k))}\right)\end{aligned}$$

where i is the user of interest, j the interferer, and k the tone.

It has to be remarked that the cross-talk parameters $h_{ij}(k)$ are
10 already determined in a previous step of the model. This is shown in Figure 1 by means of an input-arrow to the determiner DET. However this goes beyond the aim of the present invention and is therefor not described here in more details.

15

Furthermore, the following is defined:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{signal}_i(k) &= |h_{ii}(k)|^2 S_i(k) \\ \text{Interference}_{i,j}(k) &= \Gamma |h_{ij}(k)|^2 S_j(k) \\ \text{noise}_i(k) &= \Gamma \sigma_{n_i}^2(k)\end{aligned}$$

Here Γ represents the SNR gap to capacity and is a function of the target BER, desired noise margin and coding gain.

Using this definition $\exp(\partial R_{k,j}^i)$ as the metric for dominant
20 (tone, interferer) pair selection is defined:

$$\Delta_{k,j}^i = \exp(\partial R_{k,j}^i) = \begin{cases} \frac{(\text{signal}_i(k) + \text{noise}_i(k))(\text{interference}_{i,j}(k) + \text{noise}_i(k))}{\text{noise}_i(k)(\text{signal}_i(k) + \text{interference}_{i,j}(k) + \text{noise}_i(k))} \rightarrow i \neq j \\ \infty \rightarrow i = j \end{cases}$$

Δ_{jk}^i is defined as infinity when $i=j$ to force the direct lines to always be equalized.

Hereby, user i 's direct line is always included during detection of user i .

5 A vector that contains the metrics for user is sorted in descending order is defined:

$$t^i = \text{sort} ([\Delta_{1,1}^i \dots \Delta_{1,n}^i \dots \Delta_{K,1}^i \dots \Delta_{K,n}^i])$$

This is used as the threshold in the choice of dominant interferers whereby the set of dominant interferers for user i is defined

10 as

$$D^i = \{(k, j) : \Delta_{j,k}^i \geq t^i(\mu_i cKn)\}$$

where $t^i(a)$ denotes the a 'th element of vector t^i .

Notice that $|D^i| = \mu_i cKn$ where $|\cdot|$ denotes cardinality.

The set of dominant interferers for user i at a single tone k is
15 defined as :

$$D_k^i = \{j : (k, j) \in D^i\}$$

In this way a set of dominant interferers i.e. D_k^i , or also called in the claims "at least one dominant interfering tone D ", is determined for a first signal on a per tone and second signal base. The most
20 interfering tones among the different second signals S_j are determined according to this heuristic model.

This set of dominant interfering tones D is provided by the determiner DET to the executor EXE. The executor EXE executes the cross-talk cancellation for the first signal S_i during a second phase. This
25 second phase is executed during operational time of the access system. The cross-talk cancellation is executed according to the determined set of dominant interfering tones D of a second signal.

In this way, the central office is enabled due to the presence of the module MOD to provide cross-talk cancellation according to the
30 present invention to execute a cross-talk cancellation on the first signal

Si upon reception of the signal from the customer premises equipment CPI. Even more, this cross-talk cancellation is a partial cross-talk cancellation that requires a minimum of computation resources due to the use of the heuristic model.

5 A final remark is that embodiments of the present invention are described above in terms of functional blocks. From the functional description of these blocks, given above, it will be apparent for a person skilled in the art of designing electronic devices how embodiments of these blocks can be manufactured with well-known electronic
10 components. A detailed architecture of the contents of the functional blocks hence is not given.

 While the principles of the invention have been described above in connection with specific apparatus, it is to be clearly understood that this description is made only by way of example and
15 not as a limitation on the scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claims.